Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A wireless communication system with congestion relief, the system comprising:

a plurality of communication ~~resources;~~

~~a plurality of mobile stations~~ devices that include a call gapping list for holding destination nodes to be call blocked ~~utilizing the communication resources~~, wherein ~~at least one of~~ the plurality of ~~mobile stations~~ communication devices is configured to employ a call gapping process to block a call to a destination node on its call gapping list prior to making the call normally; and

a network entity operable to send a message containing a call gapping instruction to at least one communication device, wherein the call gapping instruction contains at least one overloaded destination node to be stored in the call gapping list of that communication device, wherein

the communication device is operable to initiate the call gapping process for any overloaded destination node in its call gapping list in order to block calls to that ~~plurality of communication paths for routing a communication initiated by one of said plurality of mobile stations to a~~ destination node.

2. (currently amended) The wireless communication system according to Claim 1, wherein said call gapping instruction is sent to all exchange functions on a communication path to the destination node in order to initiate a call gapping process at all communication devices supported by that particular exchange function ~~call gapping process employed by said at least one of said plurality of mobile stations is performed prior to normal communication, preventing a call that would likely be unsuccessful from being initiated and sent from said mobile station~~.

3. (currently amended) The wireless communication system according to Claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the network entity sends call gapping instructions to communication devices recognized as heavier than normal communication resource users ~~following a requested call being prevented from accessing the wireless communication system, an indication is provided to a user that the communication system is busy~~.

4. (currently amended) The wireless communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the network entity sends different call gapping instructions to communication devices having different quality of service requirements ~~said communication system further comprises a communication device that determines when one or more address or destination node is overloaded, and in response to such a determination the communication device instructs the plurality of mobile stations to initiate a self- regulating call gapping process for said one or more address or destination node~~.

5. (currently amended) The wireless communication system according to Claim 1, wherein said network entity is operable to regularly send calling gap instructions to communication devices, and if a communication device does not receive a calling gap instruction within a predetermined period, the communication device removes any nodes in its calling gap list ~~at least one of said plurality of mobile stations is sent a wireless message containing at least one call gapping instruction~~.

6. (currently amended) The wireless communication system according to Claim 5, wherein said at least one call gapping instruction includes a first range of telephone numbers of an overloaded exchange sent to the communication device whereupon the communication device initiates call blocking to any telephone number within the first range of telephone numbers ~~is selected from one of the group of:~~

~~(i) One or more address of a destination node;~~

~~(ii) One or more telephone numbers;~~

~~(iii) One or more call blocking rate; and~~

~~(iv) A time-out value~~.

7. (currently amended) The wireless communication system according to Claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein said at least one call gapping instruction includes a second range of telephone numbers of an overloaded exchange sent to the mobile stations wherein the mobile stations do not block any calls to telephone numbers within the second range of telephone numbers ~~wireless communication system is one of a GSM , GPRS, UMTS, IS-95, and CDMA2000 communication system, and a personal computer employing voice over Internet Protocol~~.

8-12. (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) A method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

invoking a call gapping mode of operation for a plurality of communication devices that include a call gapping list for holding destination nodes to be call blocked, wherein the call gapping process includes blocking a call to a destination node on the call gapping list prior to making the call normally;

sending a call gapping instruction to at least one communication device, wherein the call gapping instruction contains at least one overloaded destination node to be stored in the call gapping list of that communication device; and

performing said call gapping process in a ~~wireless~~ communication udevice ~~unit~~ operating in said wireless communication system, the communication initiating the call gapping process for any overloaded destination node in its call gapping list in order to block calls to that destination node.

14. (currently amended) The method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system according to Claim 13, wherein the sending step includes sending the call gapping instruction to all exchange functions on a communication path to the destination node in order to initiate a call gapping process at all communication devices supported by that particular exchange function ~~further comprising the step of:~~

~~indicating to a user that the communication system is busy following a requested call being prevented from accessing the wireless communication system~~.

15. (currently amended) The method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system according to Claim 13, wherein the sending step includes sending call gapping instructions to communication devices recognized as heavier than normal communication resource users ~~the method further comprising the steps of:~~

~~determining when one or more address or destination node is overloaded; and~~

~~instructing a plurality of mobile stations to initiate a self-regulating call gapping process for said one or more address or destination node, in response to such a determination~~.

16. (currently amended) The method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system according to Claims 13, wherein the sending step includes sending different call gapping instructions to communication devices having different quality of service requirements ~~further comprising the step of sending a wireless message to at least one of a plurality of mobile stations, wherein said message contains at least one call gapping instruction~~.

17. (currently amended) The method of congestion relief in a wireless communication system according to Claims 16, wherein said message contains at least one call gapping instruction that includes a first range of telephone numbers of an overloaded exchange sent to the communication device whereupon the communication device initiates call blocking to any telephone number within the first range of telephone numbers ~~selected from the group of:~~

~~(i) One or more address of a destination node;~~

~~(ii) One or more telephone numbers;~~

~~(iii) One or more call blocking rate; and~~

~~(iv) A time out value~~.

18. (cancelled).